



Paul Jouve

1878-1973

Sacred elephant of the Madura, circa 1925

Mixed technique on gold-background panel signed lower right

Dimensions : 71 x 96 cm

Dimensions : 27.95 x 37.80 inch

Literature : Listed in Paul Jouve's works online

Origin : Private Collection, France



Dimensions with frame : 87 x 115 cm
Dimensions with frame : 34.25 x 45.28 inch

Jouve, winner of the Indochina government scholarship in 1921, made a long eleven-month trip to the Far East the following year. Jouve left France in early September 1922, returning in July 1923.

This trip, which left a lasting impression on his work, took him to Ceylon, Annam, the former French Indochina and Angkor. Jouve then travelled to Tonkin, then to the city of Yun Nan in the Chinese Empire, spending a month in the imperial city of Hué, before crossing Annam again, stopping off in the English South Indies, then Ceylon again, before returning to France.

Here, the sacred, caparisoned animal is depicted in profile, the central figure in a composition animated by figures in the background. The background is treated as a mosaic of gold leaf, accentuating the sacred nature of the pachiderm and echoing the classical codes of icons and Renaissance painting.

Biography

Paul Jouve was born in 1878, in the city of Marlotte, Seine-et-Marne, and died in Paris on the 13th May 1973. He was a painter as well as a sculptor, member of the academy of Fine Arts.

His vocation of animal painter was stimulated very early, during his frequent walks at the Botanical Garden when he was still a pupil at the Fine Decorative Arts in Paris and also at the Museum of Natural History. The young painter first exhibited at the Salon of French Artists at the age of fifteen. In 1904, he joined Hamburg and Antwerp, tempted by their large zoological gardens.

Paul Jouve and his friend Léon Cauvy were the first residents of the Villa Abd-el-Tif in 1907. There, in Algiers he married Maxime Noiré's daughter, the first impressionist painter in Algeria. He was one of the first painter to go to Hoggar. Considered to be among the pioneers of animal painters in France, he illustrated The jungle book by Rudyard Kipling in 1914.

Paul Jouve took part at the Universal Exhibitions in 1900, 1925 and 1937 in Paris, where he gained a gold medal during each of his participations. He was also awarded with a gold medal during the 1931's Colonial Exhibition in Paris and this was one of his art work that illustrated the front cover of the Exhibition's guest book. He was a fertile artist, and with his friends Jacques Nam, Edouard Marcel Sandoz, Auguste Trémont, and Gaston Suisse, he took part in many exhibitions in France and abroad. His completely plastic sketches and drawings are those of a real sculptor.

Museums

Musée du Louvre, Paris

Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris

Musée de l'Armée, Hôtel des invalides à Paris

Musée de la Maison de Balzac, Paris

Musée du Luxembourg, Paris

Musée Carnavalet, Paris

Musée Marmotan, Paris

Musée des Beaux Arts du Caire, Egypte.

Musée des Beaux Arts de Bruxelles, Belgique.

Musée des Beaux Arts d'Amsterdam, Pays-Bas.

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New-York, USA.

Bibliography

Paul Jouve, Félix Marcilhac, Les Éditions de l'Amateur, mai 2005

Le monde Animal dans l'Art Décoratif des Années 30, Christian Eludut, Editions BGO, juin 2007

L'Art et les Artistes: Paul Jouve, Raymond Bouyer, Editions Armand Dayot, 1924